

10 - 24 January 1977

PLAytme At Blewbury



Twenty-five years ago the first proposals for the Proton Linear Accelerator (PLA) were taken to London by Les Mullett and Hugh Roskell. They met again for the first time in twenty years at the reunion party held just before Christmas at Blewbury to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the start of the RL site.

The PLA group was formed as part of the General Physics Division, Harwell in the early fifties from people who had moved up from TRE Malvern (now RRE Malvern) when with Les Mullett they had designed and built the first experimental electron accelerators, starting with a $\frac{1}{2}$ MeV machine (40 cm. long) in 1947 followed by a more ambitious, 2 metre job in 1948 which gave a 4 MeV beam. The commercial development of this work led to the construction of accelerators for medical work, the Hammersmith Hospital being the first to use such a machine.

The birth of the P.L.A. had been a threefold affair; the main group under Dr T G (Gerry) Pickavance in Bldg. 152, the injector group under Leo Hobbis in Hangar 7 and the valve group, also in Hangar 7, under Mac Snowden.

It was in the summer of 1955 that all parts started to combine on the new site across the airfield which became known as the Rutherford Laboratory.

Unfortunately, the original 600 MeV accelerator was nine-tenths still-born when Nimrod was conceived. Soon an influx of Nimrod types joined and things grew fast but many of the original team continued and a really surprising number are still around working together 21 years later. Thirty of these and others who have since left or retired met for the final reunion.

What is even more surprising is the amount of unusual (and useless) recorded information still around. Les Mullett's white lab coat laundry number was 21 and Gerry Pickavance had No. 36 - that was in 1953. In 1954, tea (PLA variety) was one shilling and five old pence per $\frac{1}{4}$ pound (2 cups a day at 1/- a week) and sugar was $\frac{1}{3}$ for 2 lbs.

However the reunion was an occasion when old friends were reunited and many anecdotes and old stories were swapped of the days when life really could be fun - at least in retrospect.

INTERNAL EVENTS

TECHNICAL FILM SHOW

Monday 10 January
10.30
Lecture Theatre

Mr P Ashbarner of Texnis will present a technical film (40 mins, colour), on the manufacture of Galileo fibre optics and in particular their application to channel plate electron multipliers.

HEP SEMINAR

Wednesday 12 January
11.00
R61 Conference Room

Prompt Leptons from Hadron Collisions

N S Craigie/Imperial College

NIMROD LECTURE SERIES

Monday 17 January
11.30.
Lecture Theatre

Latest Results from Experiment E28 (Neutrinos in Light Neon Mix in Fermilab 15th Chamber).

H Wachsmuth/CERN

LASER DIVISION SEMINAR

Wednesday 19 January
1500
R61 Conference Room

Ultra short laser pulses

Dr J H C Neal/Imperial College

NIMROD LECTURE SERIES

Monday 24 January
11.30
Lecture Theatre

New Particle Spectroscopy and Quark Models

Professor R G Moorhouse/Glasgow

EXTERNAL EVENTS

ELEMT. PART. PHYS SEMINARS/L.TH, NP LAB., OXFORD-1430 hrs.

27 Jan : Prof M Veltman/Utrecht - A second threshold in weak interactions.

ELEMT. PART. THEORY SEMINAR/OLD LIBRARY, NP LAB, OXF 1430 hrs.

21 Jan : Dr G Shaw/Manch. - Shadowing in photo and electro production and generalised vector dominance.

THEORETICAL PHYSICS SEMINAR/CLARENDON LAB, OXF - 1615 hrs.

20 Jan : Dr J Binney - Clusters of galaxies as X-ray sources.

HEP SEMINARS AT SOUTHAMPTON U. - 1415 hrs.

13 Jan : E Triantafillopolons/Manch. - High Energy backward scattering.

THEOR & HEP SEMINAR AT SOUTHAMPTON U - 1430 hrs.

14 Jan : I Hinchliffe/Oxf - Asymptotic freedom, scaling violations and the Drell-Yan process.
21 Jan : Dr D Sherrington/IC - Spatial disorder effects in magnetism.

PHYSICS DEPT COLLOQUIA/READING U - 1700 hrs.

10 Jan : Prof L Krause/Ontario - Inelastic collisions of excited atoms.
17 Jan : Pamela Woodruff/Culham - Photoelectron spectroscopy of nitrogen using synchrotron radiation.
24 Jan : Dr M Berry/Bristol - Dislocations in wave trains.

ELEMT. PART. PHYS. SEMINARS/BIRMINGHAM U - 1615 hrs.

14 Jan : Dr K T C O Symorok/RL - Partial wave analysis of the $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ system produced in the reaction $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$.

21 Jan : Dr D H Davis/UCL - Searches with photographic emulsions for charmed particle production at FNAL.

THEORETICAL PHYSICS SEMINAR/MANCHESTER U. - 1430 hrs.

19 Jan : Prof A Houghton/Manchester, Brown - Critical phenomena and approximate renormalisation group calculations.

HEP SEMINAR/CAVENDISH LAB, CAMBRIDGE - 1500 hrs.

19 Jan : U Sukhatme/DAMTP - The size and shape of inelastic diffractive dissociation

THEORETICAL PHYSICS SEMINARS/CONF RM, B.8.9., AERE - 1415 hrs.

14 Jan : Dr M H L Pryce/SX - The outside world as seen from beyond the event horizon of a black hole.
21 Jan : Dr J R Matthews - Fast reactor accident simulations.

NP DIV COLLOQUIA/CONF RM., HANGAR 8, AERE - 1530 hrs.

13 Jan : Prof A J Forty/Warwick - Synchrotron radiation : its characteristics & usefulness as a spectroscopic tool.
20 Jan : Dr J B A England/Birm. - Some recent developments in silicon semiconductor detector technology and applications

FINITE ELEMENTS TEACHES CENTURY

'Finite Elements' - the computer-generated film produced by Atlas Computing Division - has now sold

more than 100 copies, with orders having been received from the US, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Iraq, Iran, Switzerland, Canada, Brazil, Denmark, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

The film is now being marketed by Compeda, a new company formed by the National Research Development Corporation of London to handle a wide range of computer-produced material for engineers. Compeda will be assigning marketing rights for the film to specialist agents in the US and other countries, and is expected to arrange for foreign language soundtracks to help overseas sales.

ROAD SAFETY The Harwell Joint Site Environment Committee recently discussed the

continuing problem of vehicles being driven at excessive speed on the Authority's roads.

The following notice, which will be published in the Harwell Bulletin shortly, is relevant to the Rutherford Laboratory.

Road users are reminded that Harwell Notice No. 73 (4) (also issued as RLC 15/73) requires them to comply with all road signs on roads belonging to the Authority including the 30 m.p.h. speed restrictions. Particular care should be exercised near houses and schools. Those who ignore these signs or drive without due care and consideration for others may be barred from driving on the Authority's roads, and if in the employ of the Authority, may be subject to disciplinary action.

CERN DEATH Many people are not aware of the sudden death of Max Roberts on 18 October last year. Max, who had been at CERN for many years was so often the friend in need for people visiting the establishment and is sadly missed.

His position as E.P. Divisions Admin Officer has not yet been filled although some of his duties have been taken over temporarily by the Head of Administration in the Division, M Buhler-Broglin (Freddy to most people).

In the meantime people visiting CERN are reminded that 'our man on site', Bob Walls, is still around and available to help and advise.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS Information to hand on the following International School of Applied Geophysics - 2nd course, 13-23 April 1977, at Erice. Closing date for application, 28th February. International School of Electron Microscopy - 5th course, 27 March - 8 April 1977, at Erice. Closing date for applications - 12 February.

OVERSEAS VISITS

Dr C J S Damerell to CERN, 3-12 Jan; 19-23 Jan; 26 Jan - 3 Feb, to work on

WA3 experiment.

Dr M J Hotchkiss, to CERN, 4-11 Jan to work on WA3.

Mr J W Burren, to CERN, 5-7 Jan, for discussions on networks and satellite projects.

Mr A R Gillman, to CERN, 6 Jan - 3 Feb., to work on WA3.

Dr G C Stirling, to ILL, 8-19 Jan, to carry out approved experiment.

Dr J G V Guy, to CERN, 9-11 Jan, to give seminar on RL T.S.T. and to discuss progress on TST programmes for BEBC.

Drs. N A McCubbin & M G Albrow, to CERN, 9-16 Jan, to attend 130 collaboration meeting, status report to ISRC and for discussions on future experiments.

Dr J B Forsyth, to ILL, 14-21 Jan, to carry out approved experiment.

Dr R C Brown, to Vancouver, Canada, 14 Jan - 5 Feb, to assist in data taking for 'Basque' NP scattering experiment on TRIUMF.

Mr A R Mortimer and Mr W T Smith, to DESY, 16-18 Jan, for design discussions on equipment for DESY experiment.

Dr Margaret M Curtis, to Copenhagen, 17-21 Jan, for SEAS Executive Board Meetings and SEAS Winter Projects Meeting.

ACCOUNTING & COSTING CONCEPTS

A course on this topic, consisting of nine Monday evening lectures, 7-9 pm,

is to be held at Reading College of Technology Engineering Department commencing 31 January. It is designed for non-financial specialists. Further information from Training Section, Building R20, Ext. 266.

SALES TO EMPLOYEES

Sales of scrap metal/plastics as set out in RLN 12/73 will

be made on 14 and 28 January.

FOUND

A sum of money was left in the Library R61, before Christmas and is now with Personnel.

BULLETIN NOTICE

The CERN Courier is not alone in its production problems, mainly stemming from postal delays immediately after the turn of year festivities (page 441).

The first issue of the RL Bulletin for 1977 has also been held up due to postal delays, late arrangements for lectures, cancellations, alterations and additions resulting in far more words being typed than finally appear. The delay in publication does mean that details of lectures are, the Editor hopes, accurate.

FILM SOC II

The lecture on eroticism and censorship in the cinema will be given by Peter Chesney on Tuesday, 18 January at 1945 hours in the RL Lecture Theatre. The talk will be illustrated by clips from various films.

The early 30's were a time of recession and large unemployment so it is hardly surprising that apprenticeships were hard to come by. Ted Higgins who retired at the end of last November recalls the difficulties he experienced but anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing Ted will realise that his energetic approach to any problem would produce results, in this case a split 5 year apprenticeship, first with Lacey-Hulbert and then with Express Dairies following with years of experience with various firms as a draughtsman. From 1943-1952 he worked at Fort Halstead as a leading draughtsman followed by 2½ years at Horsham as an EIII before moving to Woolwich for 2½ years and becoming an EII.

An advertisement tempted him to apply, successfully as it turned out, to AERE Harwell which he joined in November 1957 coming to Building R12 at RL to work on the Nimrod project - at that time a hole in the chalk.

For the next 11 years Ted was deeply involved in many aspects of the Nimrod construction programme ranging from the all important foundations to pole pieces. He was involved with setting up the 336 magnets which make up the 7000 ton ring. Old hands will recall the arrival of these at one per day. A particular aspect of the Nimrod years was his responsibility for pole piece installation and alignment.

Helium supplies and recovery occupied his time in 1968, the '79 era, although he broke away from this for a while to take on satellite work, being concerned with quality assurance on the S2 68 experiment carried on TDL. After this break he returned to helium although somehow he seems to have been involved in other projects such as HPD and scanning machines; his final spell at the Lab being as deputy to Bill Bosher.

There is however another side to this energetic man as for nearly 10 years he has been a councillor and clerk to the Brightwalton Parish Council being involved in many of its activities including the Community Association of Parish Councils.

Mr Bowles, the Labs Chief Engineer made the farewell presentation to Ted, gifts from his friends and colleagues. Commenting on Ted's career and his wide experience (milk to micrometers), Mr Bowles said that Ted with his boundless energy was an ideal man to have around - he was the real man doing so much of the leg work. He never thought that Ted would beat him to retirement and was sorry he was going as he had still so much to give.

In reply Ted expressed his regret at leaving - a day he had not been looking forward to but thanked everyone for their generosity. He had not found fame and fortune but the RL had been the finest place at which to work. He would miss the companionship but wishes everyone good health and good luck.

Ted is not idle, he has a part time job in the agricultural machinery industry and from a recent telephone conversation is once more enjoying himself and using up some of that energy in what is after all, a down to earth job.



The presentation of gifts including a large framed tea tray showing a photograph of 'The Coseners House', Abingdon marked the occasion of the retirement of Jim Casterton, Clerk of Works. This title has its roots in history; the earliest references dating back to the early 13th century when a clerk was recognised as a man of learning, often associated with Holy Orders.

It is quite usual to find Clerks of Works with joinery as their basic trade. This is the case with Jim who served a 7 year apprenticeship as a joiner; he then joined Bell's well known Lambourn training stables as a carpenter.

During the last war he was directed to work at Elliott's of Newbury, a furniture manufacturing firm who had changed over to making aircraft and Jim recalls working on Air Speed Oxfords, parts of Horsa gliders and also parts of that famous wartime place, the Mosquito.

Come the end of the war & Jim rejoined Bells until 1947 when he set up his own building business in Lambourn where the vicarage stands as an example of his prowess. After about 12 years he sold up and joined AERE as a Clerk of Works looking after the maintenance of building, estates, the Cockcroft site at Didcot, Rushcommon in Abingdon and 'The Coseners House'. He came over to RL in 1961 on the same day that Coseners House was transferred to NIRNS and continued to look after it until the day he retired, just before Christmas.

Bert Brooks in making the presentation on behalf of the many friends and colleagues present spoke of the contribution Jim had made, his dedication to his job and the difficulty of replacing him. He wishes him many happy years of retirement.

Jim's first port of call on his way from his Oxford home was to Coseners House to check on any work in progress or if anything needed his attention; he then continued on to the RL where as Bert mentioned, he usually arrived at the same time as everyone else.

Many people living in official RL houses have good reason for thanking Jim for his prompt attention to their problems, some of his stories on this subject are hilarious - not all temporary occupants from overseas have a good command of the English language!

Jim wishes, through the Bulletin, to thank those he worked with at both AERE and RL for their co-operation. He particularly wishes to thank the AERE medical staff for their service to him. Seven years ago the annual X-Ray showed up a tumour on a lung and Jim says that but for their know how and care he probably would not be around to say thank you.

He sends his thanks and best wishes to all he was unable to see before leaving. Best wishes to you Jim and long may you stay fit and active.

